



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2017**

### **ROBERT M. DUNKERLY RAILROADS IN THE CIVIL WAR**

This month we welcome Robert M. Dunkerly, a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Robert has worked at nine historic sites, written twelve books and over twenty articles. His research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration. He is a past President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and serves on the Preservation Commission for the American Revolution Round Table-Richmond. He has taught courses at Central Virginia Community College, the University of Richmond, and the Virginia Historical Society. Dunkerly is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He has visited over 400 battlefields and over 1000 historic sites worldwide. When not reading or writing, he enjoys hiking, camping, and photography.

### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, March 17, 2017 – John Quarstein - Topic to be announced.

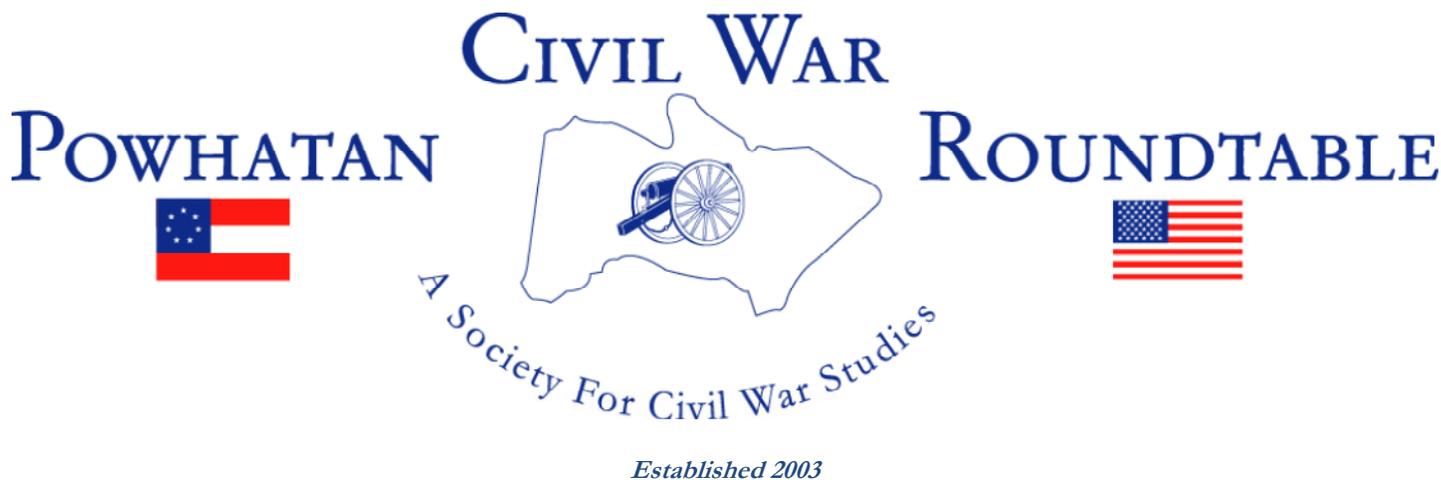
### **REMINDER: 2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

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- Individual Membership - \$25.00
- Family Membership - \$35.00

Membership includes 12 newsletters per year and entitles you to membership rates at our monthly dinner meetings.

Remit your membership today to:  
Powhatan Civil War Round Table  
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Powhatan, Virginia 23139



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2017

### SPECIAL LOCAL EVENT, FEBRUARY 13, 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

*History Happy Hour at Capital Ale House*

*Yankee Doodle to Dixie: The Importance of Music in Early Virginia*

Music played a vital role in the social development of early Virginia. From formal dances to casual gatherings, discover how Virginians integrated music into their daily lives, including how Civil War soldiers used music to brighten up their days during one of America's darkest times. Led by Josh LeHuray, of the American Civil War Museum.

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

February 1, 1863 - The dollar used in the Confederacy was worth just 20% of what it did when the war broke out. Such was the success of the Federal Navy in the rivers of the South that a decision was taken to remove any stores of cotton away from rivers. Any cotton that could not be moved was burned to save it falling into the hands of the Union.

February 2, 1863 - Grant started his attempt to build a canal around to the rear of Vicksburg using the Yazoo River as his source of water. By doing this, Grant's men would avoid the Confederate artillery stationed in Vicksburg.

February 3, 1863 - The French continued to offer attempts at mediation. Secretary of State Seward met the French ambassador in Washington DC to discuss such a move.

February 5, 1863 - The British government announced that any attempts at mediation would result in failure. Their lack of action was in stark contrast to the pro-active stance of the French government.

February 6, 1863 - The Federal government officially announced that it had rejected French offers of mediation.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



*Established 2003*

## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

February 9, 1863 - General Hooker started his reorganization of the Army of the Potomac. He decided that his first task was to improve its intelligence gathering. On his arrival at his headquarters he found no document that could inform him about the strength of the Army of Virginia. General Butterfield wrote: "There was no means, no organization, and no apparent effort to obtain such information. We were almost as ignorant of the enemy in our immediate front as if they had been in China. An efficient organization for that purpose was instituted, by which we were so enabled to get correct and proper information of the enemy, their strengths and movements."

February 11, 1863 - Hooker then turned his attention to the conditions his men lived under, which he linked to the high levels of desertion. New huts were built that could cope with the winter weather and fresh fruit and vegetables were provided. Medical facilities were also improved. The impact on desertions was dramatic and even men who had deserted returned to their regiments.

February 12, 1863 - The Union's naval blockade had a disastrous impact on the South's economy and the river patrols of its flat-bottomed boats were equally as successful. However, the sheer size of the fleet operating meant that the Federal government faced a supply problem no one

had encountered before. It was estimated that the North had to supply 70,000 bushels of coal each month to keep the fleet on the move. Food and water could be obtained locally but there was little chance of getting hold of large quantities of coal.

February 13, 1863 - General Hooker made what was to prove to be one of the most important changes to the Army of the Potomac during the war. Scattered cavalry units were amalgamated into one corps. No one was immediately appointed to command it as no army commander had ever had access to one concentrated cavalry unit. Hooker was willing to wait to appoint the most suitable candidate – he later selected General Stoneman to command it.

February 16, 1863 - The Senate passed the Conscription Act, which was passed, as volunteers for the Union army were not forthcoming.

February 22, 1863 - Hooker believed that his changes were starting to have an impact as the levels of scurvy and intestinal diseases dropped quite markedly.

February 25, 1863 - Congress authorized a national system of banking.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

Established 2003

## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017

### JOHN V. QUARSTEIN – THE C.S.S. ALBERMARLE

For the 14th consecutive year, John V. Quarstein joins us on Thursday, March 17th to discuss the steam-powered ironclad ram of the Confederate Navy, *The C.S.S. Albemarle*.

John is an award-winning historian, preservationist, lecturer, and author. He served as director of the Virginia War Museum for over thirty years and, after retirement, is in demand as a speaker throughout the nation.

He has been involved in a wide variety of historic preservation initiatives including the creation of Civil War battlefield parks like Redoubt Park in Williamsburg or Lee's Mill Park in Newport News as well as historic house museums such as Lee Hall Mansion and Endview Plantation. His current preservation endeavors feature the Rebecca Vaughan House, Lee Hall Depot, Causey's Mill, Big Bethel Battlefield and Fort Monroe. John Quarstein also serves on several boards and commissions such as Virginia Civil War Trails, Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council and the Newport News Sesquicentennial Commission.

John Quarstein is the author of numerous books, including *Fort Monroe: The Key to the South*, *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron Over Wood*, *Big Bethel: The First Battle*, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the*

*Union's First Ironclad*. His newest book is *Sink Before Surrender: The CSS Virginia*

He also has produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries, such as *Jamestown: Foundations of Freedom* and the film series *Civil War in Hampton Roads*, which was awarded a 2007 Silver Telly. His latest film, *Hampton From The Sea To The Stars*, was a 2011 Bronze Telly winner. His more recent film projects have been *Pirates of the Chesapeake* and *Tread of the Tyrants Heel: Virginia's War of 1812 Experience*.

John is the recipient of the national Trust for Historic Preservation's 1993 President's Award for Historic Preservation; the Civil War Society's Preservation Award in 1996; the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 1999; and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal in 2009. Besides his lifelong interest in Tidewater Virginia's Civil War experience, Quarstein is an avid duck hunter and decoy hunter and decoy collector. He lives on Old Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, and on his family's Eastern Shore farm near Chestertown, Maryland.

As always, we look forward to a lively presentation from this most entertaining historian. We hope you will join us!

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, April 20, 2017, Dr. John Marsh on Stonewall Jackson and Autism



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*'Again we marched on with the firm resolution in our hearts to do or die; and again we were halted, this time to receive orders not to fire a shot, meanwhile, continuing our interminable marching, as if there was no end. Almost unaware we found ourselves marching through a deserted town with here and there some negroes reported, but not a sign of the enemy. Upon asking where they might be, the negroes reported, "They're all gone. They began going yesterday. Some went last night, and the rest this morning." They had divided and their destinations were Mobile and Richmond. We occupied the city without a shot.'*

John Ritland – on the capture of Meridian, Mississippi, Feb 1864



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863** - Courtesy History Learning Site

March 1, 1863 - Lincoln met with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to discuss future military appointments.

March 2, 1863 - Congress approved the President's list of promotions but also dismissed 33 officers for a variety of offences.

March 3, 1863 - Both Senate and House passed The Enrolment Act. All able-bodied men between 20 and 45 were to serve for three years. The act was unpopular with the public because of its compulsion. Congress must have sensed this as in 1863 only 21,000 men were conscripted and by the end of the war conscription only accounted for a total of 6% of the North's army. Congress also suspended habeas corpus on this day – much to the anger of the Democrats in Congress.

March 6, 1863 - One of Hooker's attempts to develop the Army of the Potomac was to ensure that it had the most modern weapons available. By this day, his men were starting to be equipped with the Sharp's breech-loading carbine. This rifle gave Hooker's army unrivalled firepower at close range.

March 10, 1863 - Such was the problem of desertion across all armies of the Union, that Lincoln pronounced an amnesty on this day for all those who were absent without leave. Any deserter who returned to duty before April 1st would not be punished.

March 13, 1863 - 62 women workers were killed in an explosion in a munitions factory near Richmond. The Confederacy was to become more and more reliant on female workers as the war progressed. March 24, 1863 - The last Union attempt to take Vicksburg failed. The Mississippi River was very high for this time of the year and it made navigation very difficult. Grant wanted to use the many waterways that surrounded Vicksburg to his advantage – but his plan failed.

March 26, 1863 - West Virginia voted to emancipate its slaves.

March 30, 1863 - Lincoln announced that April 30th would be a day of prayer and fasting throughout the Union



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2017

### “ONE BRIGHT MOMENT: THE WEDDING OF HETTY CARY AND JOHN PEGRAM”

Born in Baltimore on May 15, 1836, Hetty Cary was related to two of Virginia's most influential families, the Jeffersons (through her mother's family) and the Randolphs (through her paternal grandmother, Virginia Randolph Cary).

When the Civil War began, Hetty gave her support to the Southern cause. Whether enthusiastically waving a smuggled Confederate flag in the face of Union soldiers in Baltimore, or by smuggling drugs and clothing through the blockade with her sister Jennie, Hetty did not hide her Confederate sympathies, and soon faced arrest or exile from her Union hometown.

Choosing exile and the South, Hetty and Jennie escaped to Richmond where they resided with their cousin Constance Cary and her mother. The three young ladies became known as the “Cary Invincibles,” and earned fame for making the first three battle flags of the Confederacy.

John Pegram was born in Petersburg, Virginia in 1832, the oldest son of third generation planter James West Pegram and Virginia Johnson Pegram. His grandfather had been a major general, commanding all Virginia forces during the War of 1812. His father, James Pegram, was a prominent attorney, militia brigadier general, and bank president in Richmond

After his father's unexpected death in 1844, Pegram's mother opened a girl's school in Richmond to support herself and her five children. Six years later, Pegram attended West Point with future generals, J.E.B. Stuart, Stephen D. Lee and Oliver O. Howard, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation.

After learning of the secession of Virginia, Pegram resigned his lieutenant's commission and accepted a commission as a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate Army, and assigned command of the 20th Virginia Infantry. Pegram was imprisoned for six months after surrendering his regiment during the Battle of Rich Mountain in 1861. After receiving parole in January 1862, he traveled to Richmond, where during a party at his

mother's home he met Hetty Cary, and thus began one of the most famous romances of the Civil War South.

This month, we welcome Kelly Hancock of the American Civil War Museum and White House of the Confederacy, who will take us back to *“One Bright Moment: The Wedding of Hetty Cary and John Pegram.”*

Kelly's presentation will relate the story of Hetty Cary and John Pegram, and the events surrounding their wedding on January 19, 1865. Hailed as the social event of the season, the wedding of one of the most beautiful belles in the South to a dashing brigadier general was one bright moment amid the tragedy and gloom experienced in Virginia during 1865. However, Kelly reminds us, ill omens preceded the wedding, and tragedy would follow soon on its heels.

Kelly Hancock serves as the American Civil War Museum's Interpretation and Programs Manager, coordinating the research, development, and implementation of interpretive programs for public audiences both on and off-site; supporting the work of the Education Department by leading projects focused on the heritage traveler audience; and collaborating on offerings for the teacher audience.

A native of New Mexico, Kelly received her B. A. in history along with her teaching certification from Eastern New Mexico University. She taught 7th grade social studies before moving to Richmond. Kelly began work at The Museum of the Confederacy in 1998 and served as Manager of Programs and Education from 2002 - 2013. With the creation of the American Civil War Museum, Kelly assumed her current position.

Kelly enjoys spending time with her husband Robert, playing with her two cats, Cordelia and Ophelia, supporting the work of her church, and feeding her new found passion for the 1920s.

We look forward to her presentation on this chapter of Richmond's history.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2017**

### **NEXT MONTH**

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### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*During the autumn of '61, to my cousins Hetty and Jennie and to me was entrusted the making of the first three battle flags of the Confederacy. They were jaunty squares of scarlet crossed with dark blue edged in white, the cross bearing stars to indicate the number of the seceded states. We set our best stitches upon them, edged with gold fringe, and when they were finished, dispatched one to General Joseph E. Johnston, another to General Pierre Beauregard and the last to General Earl Van Dorn. The banners were made from red silk for the fields and blue silk for the crosses.*

~Constance Cary~



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site

April 2nd: Riots occurred in Richmond where people were becoming desperate at the economic plight of the Confederacy. Food in particular was in short supply. The riot was termed a “bread riot” by locals though it turned into a general looting session. It was only quelled when the rioters listened to Jefferson Davis who spoke to them in person and then threw the money in his pockets at them. It was a sufficient gesture to disperse the rioters.

April 3rd: Lincoln visited Hooker and pressurized him into an attack on Richmond. In response Hooker put in for 1.5 million ration packs.

April 4th: Hooker prepared the Army of the Potomac for an attack on Richmond. The Army’s Secret Service Department was ordered to prepare updated maps on the defenses at Richmond.

April 5th: Several Confederate ships were detained in Liverpool docks, as it was believed that they were blockade-runners.

April 10th: Lincoln reviewed the Army of the Potomac at its winter quarters in Falmouth, Virginia. The troops he met expressed their full confidence in Hooker – a view not totally shared by the president. Lincoln had to dampen down Hooker’s rhetoric about capturing Richmond and remind him that defeating Lee’s Army of Virginia was far more important and that Richmond was the bait to lure Lee into battle.

April 13th: General Burnside issued his General Order Number 38, which threatened the death penalty for anyone found guilty of treasonable behavior.

April 17th: This day saw the start of Colonel Ben Grierson’s Union legendary raid into the Confederacy. With 1700 cavalymen, Grierson roamed 600 miles during his raid deep into the South. The raid lasted 16 days and within the Union army Grierson became a legend.

April 20th: Lincoln announced that West Virginia would join the Union on June 20th 1863.

April 21st: Hooker finalized his plan of attack. He hoped to fool the South into thinking that Fredericksburg was his main target while moving three corps of troops against Lee’s left flank. 2000 mules were acquired by Hooker to speed up the movement of his army

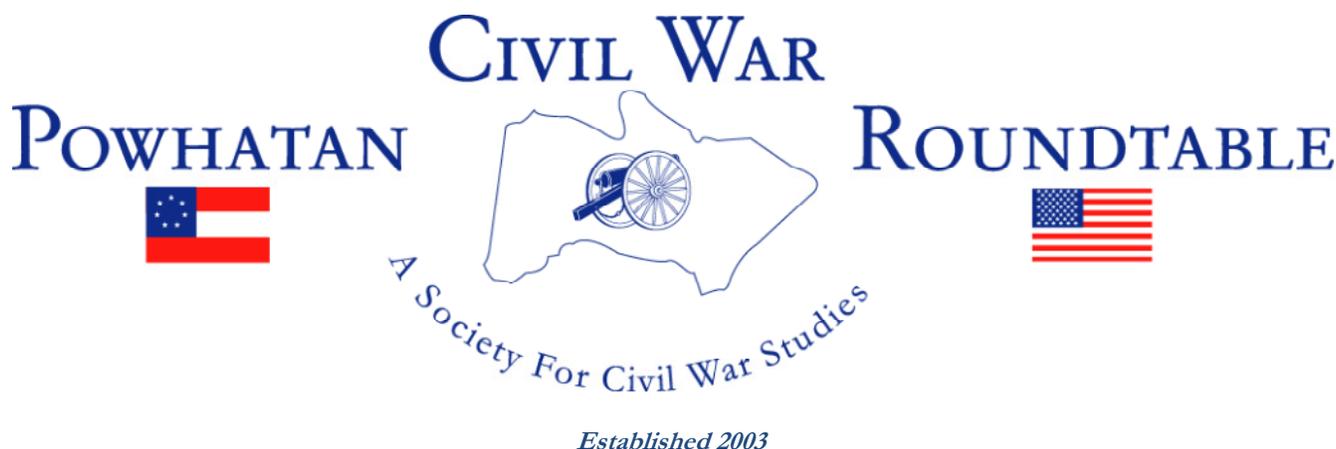
April 24th: The Confederate Congress passed a tax set at 8% on all agricultural produce grown in 1862 and a 10% tax on profits made from the sale of iron, clothing and cotton. There was much public hostility to these new taxes but a general acceptance that they were needed. The biggest problem facing the South’s economy was the fact that much land was used for the growing of cotton and not for food.

April 26th: Hooker’s offensive against Lee’s Army of Virginia and Richmond started. However, torrential rain turned many of the roads/tracks he used to mud and made movement very difficult.

April 28th: The rain has made movement so difficult that engineers had to lay logs on the surface of roads/tracks to allow wagons to move.

April 29th: Lee’s scouts informed him that it was their belief that the attack on Fredericksburg was a feint and that their observed movement of many men on Lee’s left flank was the real target of Hooker. Lee accepted the advice of his scouts and ordered Stonewall Jackson not to attack Union troops at Fredericksburg – despite Jackson’s request to do just this.

April 30th: Hooker ordered 10,000 cavalymen to raid Lee’s communication bases. The raids, while impressive with regards to the number of men involved, achieved very little and if anything served to boost the confidence of Lee’s Army of Virginia.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2017

### "OURS IS NO LONGER A DIVIDED COUNTRY": THE PATH TO REUNION AND RECONCILIATION IN VIRGINIA'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

This month, we welcome educator and author, Jonathan A. Noyalas and his topic, "Ours is No Longer a Divided Country" The Path to Reunion and Reconciliation in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

This presentation will explore the Civil War's impact on Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and how the visits of veterans from Union general Philip H. Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah to the region in 1883 and 1885 aided, to some degree, in healing the Civil War's wounds in the Valley. Additionally, the presentation will offer insight into reconciliation's limits in the region and the concerns "Southern Copperheads" presented to Confederate veterans who favored healing among former foes.

Jonathan A. Noyalas is the director of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University. Prof. Noyalas is the author or editor of eleven books on Civil War era history including *Civil War Legacy in the Shenandoah: Remembrance, Reunion, and Reconciliation*. Additionally, Noyalas has authored more than 100 articles, essays, book chapters, and reviews which have appeared in a variety of scholarly and

popular publications including *Civil War History*, *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Civil War Monitor*, *Blue & Gray*, *Civil War News*, and *Hallowed Ground*.

In addition to teaching and writing Prof. Noyalas has consulted on a variety projects with the National Park Service, Civil War Trust, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, and National Geographic. He has appeared on NPR's "With Good Reason" and C-SPAN's American History TV.

Noyalas is the recipient of numerous awards for his teaching, scholarship, and service including the highest honor that can be bestowed upon any professor at a college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia--the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award.

To learn more about this month's topic, visit our website at <http://www.powhatancwrt.com/forum.htm> for a most informative article by our speaker.

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## NEXT MONTH

Thursday, July 20, 2017, Steve Anders, on "Grant's Logistics - the Wilderness to Petersburg"



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2017

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"It affords us pleasure to meet you under our own vine and fig tree ... we welcome you most cordially.... It is true we had ... unpleasantness in the long ago, but I venture to say that the man who waves the bloody shirt today never smelled gun powder even in those days that people were so careless with it."*

R.D. Funkhouser, formerly of the 49th Virginia

### BOOK TALK: A CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AND HIS LADY

Joshua Moore was an Irish immigrant. Jennie Lindsay was the daughter of an Illinois senator. He was a captain in the 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers. She was the daughter of an ardent Copperhead. Despite these circumstances, they fell in love and corresponded for three years. Through their letters, author Gene Barr crafts an intimate look at their relationship against the backdrop of war.

#### **Program Date:**

Saturday, June 10, 2017 - 1:00pm

#### **Location:**

White House and Museum of the Confederacy

#### **Cost:**

Included with Museum admission; free to members



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site

June 2, 1863 - General Lee decided to move north his Army of Northern Virginia. His hope was to draw General Hooker's Army of the Potomac after him and away from Virginia. Lee did not want a battle with Hooker as his motives were entirely defensive but he also realized that a further defeat for the Army of the Potomac would be a serious blow to the Union. So while Lee wished to be defensive, he also prepared to be offensive.

June 3, 1863 - The Army of Northern Virginia left Fredericksburg and moved north – 70,000 men with 300 artillery guns. Hooker's Army of the Potomac was 120,000 strong. Hooker also had the advantage of intelligence as two Confederate deserters had given themselves up to Union forces and had told them about the planned movements of Lee's army.

June 4, 1863 - Rationing was introduced in Vicksburg for the besieged population – soldiers and civilians.

June 5, 1863 - A rearguard Confederate force at Fredericksburg clashed with probing Union forces in what was called the Battle of Franklin's Crossing. The Union force learned that the defenses of Fredericksburg were strong, while the Confederate force, commanded by General Stuart, decided that the 'attack' was merely a demonstration of strength to unsettle the remaining Confederate defenders.

June 6, 1863 - President Lincoln and General Hooker clashed over what to do with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Lincoln wanted Hooker to pursue Lee (as Lee himself had hoped for) while Hooker wanted to take the opportunity to attack what was now a poorly

defended Richmond. Not for the first time did the President, as Commander-in-Chief, clash with his generals. In this case, Hooker's desire was warranted as Lee had already decided that if Richmond, at any time, was threatened he would call off his march north and return to the Confederate capital. This was the one opportunity when Hooker could have attacked Richmond when it was poorly defended. Lincoln wanted a more aggressive campaign.

June 9, 1863 - Union cavalry attacked General Stuart's cavalry force near Brandy Station. Some 22,000 men fought here – the largest cavalry clash of the war. Both sides were evenly matched and the Union force, commanded by Pemberton, nearly defeated Stuart's men, but news of advancing Confederate infantry convinced Pemberton that withdrawal was his best option rather than continuing the fight. Stuart's men had a high reputation among Pemberton's men, so this near victory did a great deal to boost Union morale, especially among the cavalry.

June 11, 1863 - Two 10-inch artillery guns arrived at Vicksburg for Grant's army. They greatly boost the Union's ability to destroy the defenses there. Citizens in Vicksburg took to living in caves to ensure their safety from the artillery bombardment.

June 12, 1863 - Rumors of an invasion by Lee's men led to many fleeing their homes in Union areas near to the border with the South. Few responded to a call by the Pennsylvania governor for volunteers for a state militia.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site

June 14, 1863 - A Unionist force tried to end the siege at Port Hudson. While Northern troops were doing the besieging, they were suffering acute medical casualties as a result of the dire environment they were in. The attack was an attempt to end all this. It failed and the Confederate defenders held out. The Union lost 4000 men in the attack.

June 15, 1863 - The Confederates captured Winchester. They took 4,500 prisoners along with 200,000 rounds of ammunition, 300 wagons and 300 horses.

June 17, 1863 - The South lost one of its ironclads, the CSS Atlanta.

June 20, 1863 - The citizens of Baltimore started to build defenses around their city fearing an attack by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Cavalry units from both Lee's and Hooker's armies clashed almost on a daily basis.

June 27, 1863 - Hooker resigned as commander of the Army of the Potomac after one argument too many with his superior General Halleck. Hooker believed that Halleck was deliberately undermining his authority by refusing to allow him to do as he wished with the men under his command. Hooker's resignation was accepted and General George Meade replaced him.

June 29, 1863 - Meade immediately ordered the Army of the Potomac to hunt out the Army of Northern Virginia. Whereas Hooker wanted to wait and see what Lee intended, Meade wanted to engage him as soon as was feasible.

June 30, 1863 - Lee's scouts kept him well-informed to the whereabouts of the Army of the Potomac. He ordered his men to march on Cashtown. A unit of Confederate troops was sent to Gettysburg where it was believed a stash of military boots was kept. The men, from III Corps, came across Unionist troops from Brigadier-General Buford's cavalry division and withdrew.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2017

### GRANT'S LOGISTICS FROM THE WILDERNESS TO PETERSBURG

The Overland Campaign of 1864 pitted Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia against the Union Army of the Potomac commanded by George G. Meade, but directed by Ulysses S. Grant, and resulted in arguably some of the most important battles of the Civil War: The Wilderness; Spotsylvania Court House; Yellow Tavern; North Anna; Cold Harbor; Trevilian Station

Starting with fifteen days of supplies, U.S. Grant intended to forage from the countryside of Virginia for a minimum of twenty days, with the intention of becoming "established on the James River." The results were massive casualties, the Siege of Petersburg, and ultimately end the war.

This month we welcome Steve Anders to discuss one of his favorite topics, Grant's logistics during the 3-day Overland Campaign.

Dr. Anders was born on September 13, 1946, in Columbus, Ohio, and grew up in nearby Washington Court House where he graduated from Washington High School in 1964. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History (1968), a Master of Arts degree in History (1973), and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in History (1981), all from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Dr. Anders' specialties include U.S. Military History, The American South and the American Civil War. Prior to becoming the Quartermaster Historian at Fort Lee in 1984, Dr. Anders served as a Documents Librarian at Miami University and taught at Indiana University East in Richmond, Indiana. He taught a U.S. History survey course at John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia and most recently taught mini-courses on the history of Fort Lee Civil War Logistics for the Osher Institute at the University of Richmond.

Dr. Anders served as the Command Historian for the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps from 1984 to 2009, where he

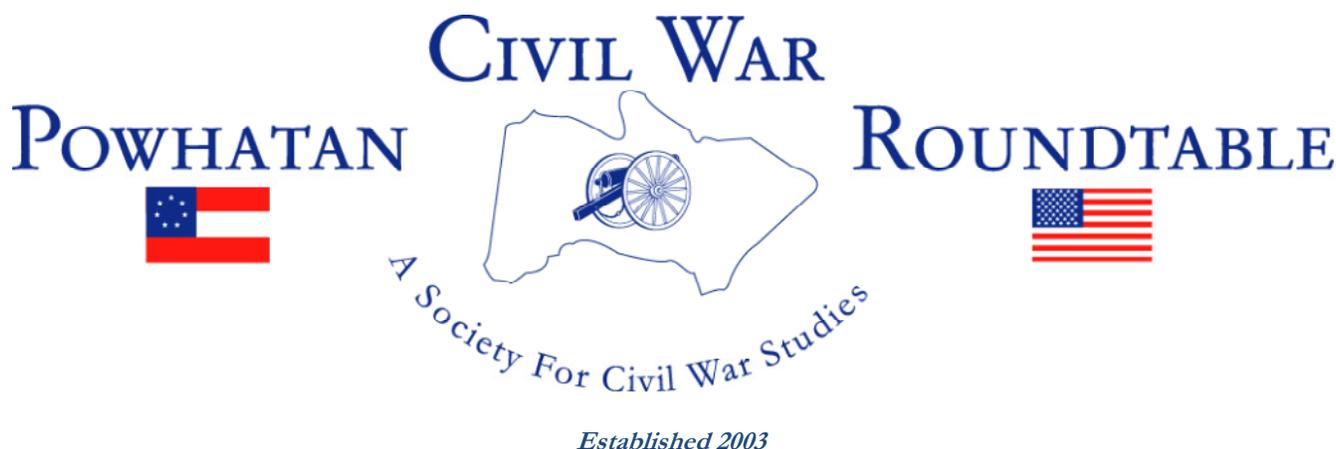
advised The Quartermaster General on all matters pertaining to military history. For nearly 25 years he developed and taught history courses at the Quartermaster School, conducted historical Staff Rides and collected thousands of primary documents for the Quartermaster Corps Archives. He researched and wrote historical articles and monographs and in 2007 co-authored with Mr. Tim O'Gorman, *The Illustrated History of Fort Lee*.

Dr. Anders served as an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970 which included a year-long tour with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He is a Distinguished Member of the Quartermaster Regiment and the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin; and has been awarded the General Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence, the Department of Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and the Superior Civilian Service Award. He was honored with a Distinguished Instructor Award in 2002 and was selected as the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command's Civilian Instructor of the Year in 2003.

From January 2010 until his retirement from Federal Service in January 2013, Dr. Anders served as the Command Historian for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee. He also held the title of Professor of Military and Logistics History at the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee. Dr.

Anders is married to Colleen Langen Anders, a lifelong elementary school teacher and recently retired Assistant Principal at Bettie Weaver Elementary School in Chesterfield County, Virginia. They have two sons, Christopher, 23, and Matthew, 22.

We look forward to his presentation, and hope you will join us.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2017**

### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, August 17, 2017, Speaker and topic TBA

### **PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade. To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

See our website's FAQ page for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*The world has never seen so bloody or so protracted a battle as the one being fought and I hope never will again. The enemy were really whipped yesterday but their situation is desperate beyond anything heretofore known. To lose this battle they lose their cause. As bad as it is they have fought for it with a gallantry worthy of a better.*

Ulysses S. Grant, May 13, 1864

### **BOOK TALK**

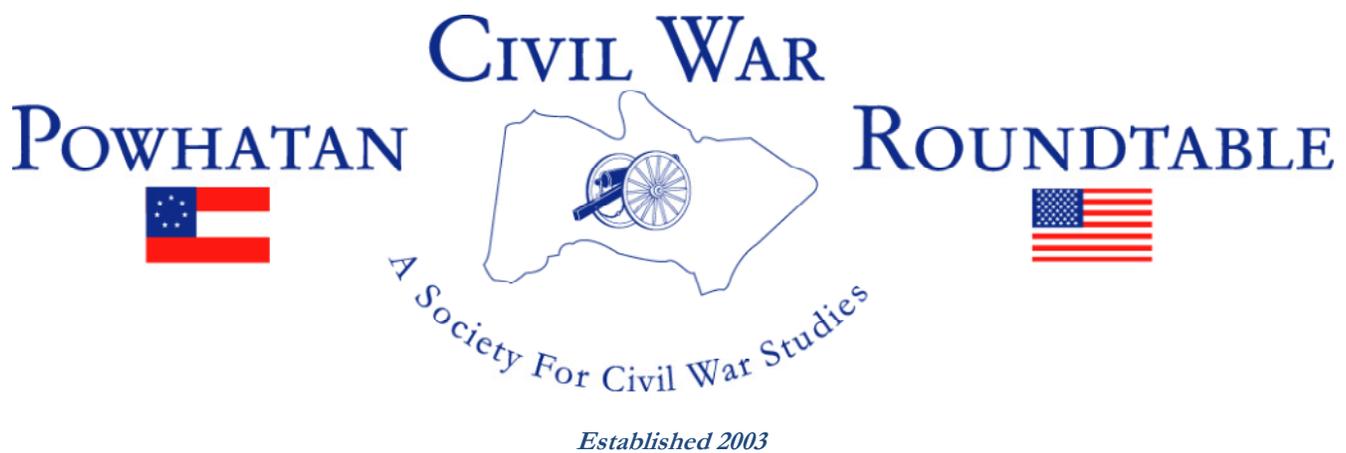
**To the Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, and the Surrenders of the Confederacy**

Program Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 - 12:00pm

Location: White House and Museum of the Confederacy

Robert M. Dunkerly will bring to light little-known facts as he uncovers the many confusing and chaotic twists and turns of often-overlooked events from the surrender at Appomattox through those following at Greensboro, Citronelle, and the Trans-Mississippi.

Cost: Included with Museum admission; free for members.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site

July 1, 1863 - The Confederates believed that the men at Gettysburg who had repulsed their advance on June 30th were militia and not regular soldiers. The commander of the Confederate force in the area, Henry Heth, decided to continue to advance on Gettysburg to secure what he deemed to be much needed shoes. What started as a minor clash soon developed into something more. 2,500 Union infantrymen advanced to Gettysburg to give support and ended up capturing 1,000 Confederate troops and Brigadier-General Archer. More and more Confederate and Union infantry advanced on Gettysburg until seemingly overnight 22,000 Confederate troops and 16,500 Unionists are based in and around Gettysburg.

July 2, 1863 - Believing that he has superior numbers Lee ordered a full-scale attack against Union forces at Gettysburg. However, overnight, the Army of the Potomac had greatly increased its numbers so that Lee now faced 30,000 men. However, some units like the VI Corps had marched 30 miles overnight to be at Gettysburg and were hardly in a fit state to fight. In the initial stages of the Battle of Gettysburg, the upper hand rested with Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia.

July 3, 1863 - Lee was suffering from dysentery and this may have affected his decision-making. He believed that the Union force had shored up its flanks fearing that Lee would try to outflank them – not an unusual tactic used by Lee in the past. Lee decided to attack the heart of the Union's forces believing that he could drive a wedge through the Union forces, and that once separated they would withdraw in disarray. However, Lee's calculations were wrong. By now, Meade's Army of the Potomac numbered 85,000 to Lee's 75,000. At 13:00 the South started an artillery bombardment on Union positions. However, by 15:00, the South's supply of artillery shells had run low and they could not sustain the bombardment. Lee resorted to a full-scale infantry

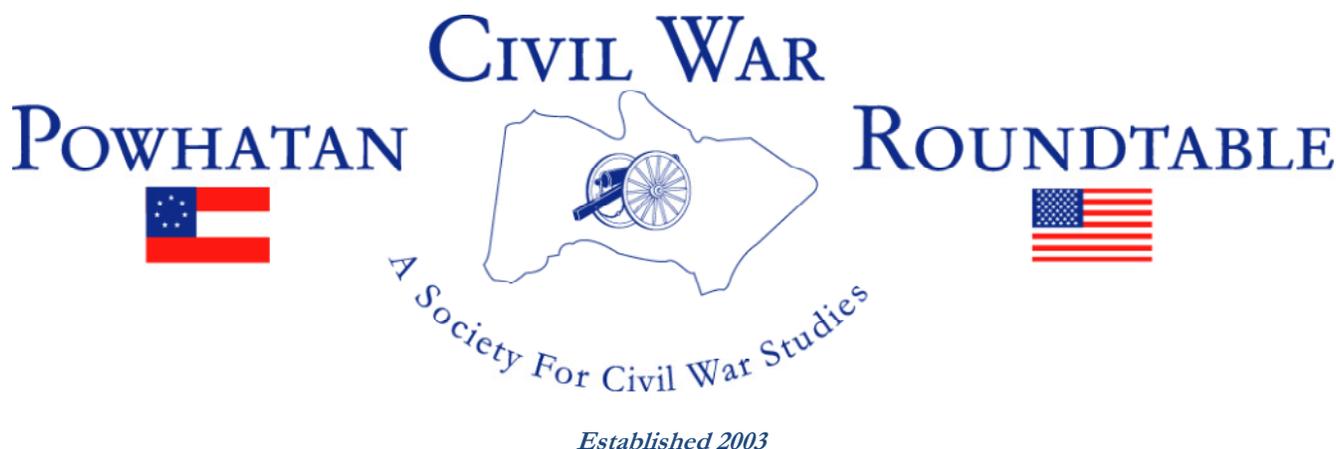
charge. 13,000 men armed with rifles and bayonets from Major-General Pickett's division charged Union positions. 7,000 were killed or wounded and the division retreated in disorder. Acknowledging that he had made the wrong decision, Lee, riding among the survivors said, "This was all my fault. It is I that has lost this fight, and you must help me out of it the best you can."

On what was a disastrous day for the Confederacy, on July 3rd John C. Pemberton offered the surrender of Vicksburg. Ulysses S. Grant insisted on, and got an unconditional surrender of the Confederate forces based in the besieged town.

July 4, 1863 - Both armies continued to face each other at Gettysburg, but neither was inclined to fight. That night Lee ordered a withdrawal: his army had lost 22,000 men killed or wounded in just 3 days – 25% of the Army of Northern Virginia. Meade had lost 23,000 men but had emerged from the Battle of Gettysburg as the victor. The Union was also better able to cope with such losses. Bodies of those killed at Gettysburg took weeks to clear and by November 1863 only 25% of those killed had received a proper burial. The local undertaker claimed that he could only manage to move, clean and bury 100 bodies a day. On this day, Vicksburg formally surrendered to Grant.

July 5, 1863 - Lee retreated with his severely weakened army, but no attempt was made by Meade's Army of the Potomac to pursue them, such was the weakened state of his force. While Lee's defeat at Gettysburg is seen as the turning point in the war, it has to be remembered that he withdrew with many Union prisoners.

July 6, 1863 - Meade's army started to move out of Gettysburg, and followed Lee's army but did nothing to actively engage it.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site

July 8, 1863 - Port Hudson surrendered. The Confederate force there had been severely weakened by lack of food and fresh water. Only 50% of the Confederate troops there were capable of fighting. They surrendered 20 cannon and 7,500 rifles.

July 11, 1863 - Meade decided that his men were sufficiently rested after Gettysburg and decided that the Army of the Potomac had to become more proactive. The last thing that Meade wanted was for Lee's men to cross the Potomac River.

July 13, 1863 - New York experienced race riots. The first draft in the city was heavily slanted towards the Irish community of New York. They also believed that while they were away fighting African-Americans would take their jobs. This belief was enflamed by the Democrat state governor, Horatio Seymour. Homes of Republican politicians within the city were attacked. Any African-Americans that the mob could find were also attacked. That night the Lee's Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac River and fooled Meade's Army of the Potomac by leaving campfires alight giving the appearance that the men from Lee's army were still in camp.

July 14, 1863 - riots continued in New York City; African Americans were murdered in the streets and city law enforcement agencies were unable to cope. Men from the Army of the Potomac were ordered to the city to restore law

and order. When President Lincoln was informed that Lee's army had crossed the Potomac, he very publicly expressed his anger with Meade for allowing this. "We had them within our grasp. We had to only stretch forth our hands and they were ours."

July 15, 1863 - the riots in New York were finally brought to an end. However, 1,000 people were killed by the army, which caused huge resentment among the Irish community in the city.

July 16, 1863 - General Sherman, fresh from his success at Vicksburg, advanced on Jackson, Mississippi. The Confederate forces there, commanded by General Johnston, withdrew.

July 18, 1863 - Union forces suffered losses in their attempt to capture Battery Wagner, near Charleston. Battery Wagner was a Confederate redoubt about 2,500 meters from Fort Sumter. 1,515 Union men were lost in the attack, including seven senior Union commanders. The Confederacy lost 174 men.

July 25, 1863 - Union ironclads joined the assault on Battery Wagner. However, shore defenses were far better than anticipated by the Union troops.

July 29, 1863 - Union forces occupied the whole of Morris Island except Battery Wagner. If Wagner was captured, the Union could start a bombardment of Charleston.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017

Asperger's syndrome (AS) is one of a group of neurological disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). People with AS exhibit three primary symptoms:

- difficulty with social interaction
- engaging in repetitive behavior
- rigidity in thinking and a focus on rules and routines

Those who knew him described Thomas J. Jackson as taciturn, anti-social, odd, and eccentric. Could those characteristics indicate that Stonewall Jackson, arguably one of the greatest military minds of the Civil War, lived with Asperger's syndrome?

This month we welcome Dr. Don Marsh, a Fellow of the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP), and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) who will discuss General Jackson, and whether Asperger's Syndrome could have affected his decisions during the war.

Dr. Marsh has worked in academia, hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from

the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Science in 1976, and completed a Residency in Hospital Pharmacy at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. He also received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Medical College of Virginia School of Pharmacy, Richmond, VA in 1982.

Don held a faculty position of Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy, at the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy, and Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine, at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC.

Our speaker's primary interests are in the areas of Infectious Diseases, Cardiology and Geriatrics, and the American Civil War. He received a Master's Degree in Civil War History through American Military University, part of the American Public University System, and has many papers on historical subjects.

We look forward to his presentation, and hope you will join us.

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### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, September 21, 2017, Eric Whittenberg on Generals Sherman and Johnston.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017

### NEW MENU OPTIONS

As announced last month, The County Seat Restaurant has changed their meal policy for club meetings. Going forward, The County Seal will offer a main course, or the soup and salad bar.

This month the main course will consist of salad, meatloaf, peas & pearl onions, and scalloped potatoes.

Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade. To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting.

### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"General" I remarked, "How is it that you can keep so cool and appear so utterly insensible to danger in such a storm of shell and bullets as rained about you when your hand was hit?" He instantly became grave and reverential in his manner, and answered, in a low tone of great earnestness: "Captain, my religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me." He added, after a pause, looking me full in the face: "That is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave"*

Lt. General Thomas Jackson speaking to Captain John D. Imboden

### BOOK TALK

***To the Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, and the Surrenders of the Confederacy***

Robert M. Dunkerly will bring to light little-known facts as he uncovers the many confusing and chaotic twists and turns of often-overlooked events from the surrender at Appomattox through those following at Greensboro, Citronelle, and the Trans-Mississippi.

Location: White House and Museum of the Confederacy

Cost: Included with Museum admission; free for members.

Program Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 - 12:00pm



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017**

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 -** Courtesy History Learning Site

August 1, 1863 - The Confederate spy Belle Boyd was arrested and imprisoned in Washington DC. Jefferson Davis offered an amnesty to any Southern soldier absent without leave. This was becoming a chronic problem for the South and Davis hoped to rectify it in this manner. However, he was unaware that the North was experiencing a similar problem

August 2, 1863 - plans were submitted to build a suitable artillery gun platform in the marshland near Charleston to enable the North to use large caliber guns against the city. However, as the city was nearly 8,000 meters from this platform, even the largest caliber guns would have been at the end of their range.

August 4, 1863 - Union engineers started to build the gun platform on Morris Island to allow for the bombardment of Charleston. Logs were forced vertically down 20 feet through the mud into the sand substratum. Pine logs were then laid across these logs, which in turn were covered with 13,000 sandbags that contained 800 tons of earth. This was capable of supporting an 8-inch 200-pounder Parrott rifle. It was impossible to disguise what they were doing and the defenders of Charleston responded with strengthening the city's defenses.

August 6, 1863 - President Lincoln proclaimed this day as a day of thanksgiving for the recent Union victories. Businesses in the North were shut as all were encouraged to attend church services.

August 8, 1863 - Robert E Lee offered his resignation and took full responsibility for the disaster at Gettysburg. On no occasion did he try to blame a subordinate officer – a problem in the Union's Army of the Potomac that created many divisions among senior generals who could never be totally sure who they could trust. Davis refused Lee's offer

August 12, 1863 - Union gunships arrived off Charleston to give the engineers more cover from Confederate artillery attacks. In particular the 10-inch guns at Battery Wagner were proving a real concern. Battery Wagner was at the far seaward end of Morris Island and had originally been built to defend the harbor entrance into Charleston. Its guns were in easy range of the Union engineers still constructing their platform but also now very open to a naval assault by Union gunships

August 17, 1863 - 450 Union soldiers managed to move the 200-pounder Parrott gun to its base. It was nicknamed the "Swamp Angel".



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017**

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 -** Courtesy History Learning Site

August 18, 1863 - President Lincoln tried out the new Spencer Repeating Carbine. Suitably impressed, he gave it his approval. The rifle was more accurate than previous ones issued to Union troops and, correctly used, it could fire more bullets over the same period of time. The Spencer rifle was to give the North's infantrymen a major advantage over the South's and 60,000 were eventually supplied.

August 21, 1863 - The "Swamp Angel" was ready for use. The North demanded that the South had to evacuate Battery Wagner or that they would fire on Charleston.

August 22, 1863 - As the South had not agreed to the North's demands, the first shot by the "Swamp Angel" was fired at Charleston at 01.30. The gunners could not actually see their target but artillery officers had spent the previous day working out the necessary predicted range and angle of fire. In total 12 shots were fired in quick succession, including four incendiary rounds.

August 23, 1863 - The officer in command of defending Charleston, General Beauregard, wrote to the Union commander on Morris Island, General Gillmore, claiming that he was firing on innocent women and children, none of whom had been given the chance to leave the city. "You're firing a number of the most

destructive missiles ever used in war into the midst of a city taken unawares and filled with sleeping women and children will give you a bad eminence in History." Gillmore replied that the city had been given fair warning and that if women and children were in the city, it was the fault of the city's commanders and not his. The issue was solved not by diplomacy but by the "Swamp Angel" itself. After firing a further 20 rounds, the breech exploded and put the gun out of use.

August 24, 1863 - Fort Sumter, also built to guard Charleston, surrendered after a 7-day artillery bombardment. Hit by over 2,500 rounds, the fort was reduced to ruin. However, when the troops in the fort were seen trying to remove the remaining artillery guns, which were going to be shipped to Charleston to bolster the city's defenses, a further 627 rounds were fired at it.

August 26, 1863 - Union troops moved to within 250 meters of Battery Wagner, which had yet to be put out of action. However, any further movement forward was severely hampered when it became clear that the battery had been surrounded by "sub-surface torpedo mines" activated by foot pressure. However, General Beauregard believed that the fall of Battery Wagner was inevitable and planned for its evacuation.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

### ERIC WITTENBERG - "WE RIDE A WHIRLWIND" SHERMAN AND JOHNSTON AT BENNETT PLACE

The end of the Civil War is widely believed to have occurred with the surrender of Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865. However, hostilities continued as Union General William T. Sherman proceeded with the last part of his Carolinas Campaign and marched to Raleigh, North Carolina, and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston moved his forces in position to guard Raleigh against the attack.

Then, seventeen days after the surrender at Appomattox, the last major stage in the peace making process occurred when General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his Confederate Army to General William T. Sherman at the Bennett Place, April 26, 1865.

This month, we again welcome our friend, Eric Wittenberg, to discuss the subject of his new book, "We Ride a Whirlwind" Sherman and Johnston at Bennett Place.

Eric was raised in southeastern Pennsylvania, and made his first trip to the Gettysburg battlefield as a third-grader. By the end of that trip, he was fully hooked on the Civil War.

Eric is an alumnus of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and also has two degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in public and international affairs from Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs as well his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Eric is a full-time practicing attorney in private practice.

Eric is an award-winning Civil War historian. His specialty is cavalry operations, with a particular emphasis on the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps. He is the author of sixteen published

books, all of which are available for purchase on this site. His first book, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*, was named the third winner of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey's Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award as the best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg of 1998. Other works of his have been chosen as main selections by the History and Military Book Clubs, and his work uniformly receives good reviews. He is also the author of more than two dozen published articles on Civil War cavalry operations. His articles have appeared in *Gettysburg Magazine*, *North & South*, *Blue & Gray*, *Hallowed Ground*, *America's Civil War*, and *Civil War Times Illustrated*.

Eric regularly travels the country to lecture on the war, and he is frequently asked to lead Civil War battlefield tours.

Battlefield preservation work is very important to him. He sits on the boards of advisors of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and the Friends of the Alligator, and has regularly worked with the Civil War Preservation Trust in helping to save battlefield land. He is an original member of, as well as past president and program chairman of, the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable. He is the vice president of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation and serves as one of 18 members of the Governor of Ohio's Advisory Commission on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

He maintains a popular and well-regarded blog, *Rantings of a Civil War Historian*, and is the owner and moderator of the popular Civil War Discussion Group Online.

We look forward to his visit, and hope you will join us!



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017**

### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, October 19, 2017, Jim Callear - Civil War Relics & Reenacting

### **NEW MENU OPTIONS**

As announced last month, The County Seat Restaurant has changed their meal policy for club meetings. Going forward, The County Seal will offer a main course, or the soup and salad bar.

This month the main course will consist of family style fried chicken, sweet potato, green beans and coleslaw.

Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by September 19<sup>th</sup>.

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### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*"I earnestly exhort you to observe faithfully the terms of pacification agreed upon; and to discharge the obligations of good and peaceful citizens, as well as you have performed the duties of thorough soldiers in the field. By such a course, you will best secure the comfort of your families and kindred, and restore tranquility to our country."*

*General Joseph E. Johnston  
General Order No. 22*

### **BOOK TALK**

Book Talk- Meade and Lee After Gettysburg

Location: White House and Museum of the Confederacy

Contrary to popular belief, once Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia slipped across the swollen Potomac back to Virginia the Lincoln administration pressed George Meade to cross quickly in pursuit—and he did. The two weeks that followed was a grand chess match with everything at stake—high drama filled with hard marching, cavalry charges, heavy skirmishing, and set-piece fighting that threatened to escalate into a major engagement with the potential to end the war in the Eastern Theater. Join us as author Jeffrey Hunt sheds new light on the often overlooked period.

Cost: Included with Museum admission; free for members.

Program Date: Friday, September 22, 2017 - 12:00pm



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017**

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863** - Courtesy History Learning Site

September 1, 1863 - Six more Union gun ships sailed into Charleston harbor to assist with the attack on the city.

September 2, 1863 - Union forces captured Knoxville, Tennessee. This cut in half the railroad from Chattanooga to Virginia and meant that the South would have to supply its men in Virginia via railways through Atlanta.

September 4, 1863 - General Grant was injured falling from his horse. Observers claimed that it was because he was drunk – possibly with some justification. Allegations of drunkenness were to follow Grant for many years.

September 5, 1863 - An infantry assault on Battery Wagner started after the “sub-surface torpedo mines” had been cleared. General Rosecrans started his attack on Chattanooga. The British government seized two ironclads being built for the South in Liverpool after strenuous pressure from Washington DC. 38

September 6, 1863 - Chattanooga was evacuated on the orders of General Braxton Bragg.

September 7, 1863 - A full-scale infantry assault on Battery Wagner was planned for 09.00. However, by this time the battery had been evacuated.

September 9, 1863 - President Davis ordered 12,000 troops to Chattanooga, as he believed that the city could not be allowed to fall. They were to come from Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

September 10, 1863 - The South’s commander at Chattanooga, Bragg, ordered an attack on the Union forces as they approached the city.

However, he was unaware of the size of Rosecrans force or where they all were. The dense forests that surrounded the city hid many Union soldiers. Bragg chose not to use trained scouts. He used his own cavalry for reconnaissance and they failed to spot that the Union army approaching Chattanooga had split into three.

September 12, 1863 - General Polk was ordered by Bragg to attack the Union’s known positions. Polk refused to do so. No one accused Polk of cowardice, as he had a reputation for enjoying battle, such as his fiery temperament. What stopped Polk was his lack of information – he did not know the size of the army he was meant to attack. Polk also knew from past experience that Bragg was rarely keen to gather as much intelligence as was possible. Even Bragg did not know the whereabouts of the main force of Union troops and his subordinate generals started to think that he was bewildered by what was going on around Chattanooga. It did not help matters that Bragg pointed the finger of blame at everyone except himself.

September 13, 1863 - Bragg was informed by officers on the ground that Rosecrans force was scattered and any one section was open to a concerted attack. Bragg refused to accept this and planned for an attack against a sizeable and concentrated enemy. If he had followed the information given to him by his subordinates, the outcome of the battle to come may have been different. As it was, Bragg’s indecision allowed Rosecrans the time to move his XX Corps commanded by General McCook to the frontline. XX Corps was the furthest away of Rosecrans army. McCook’s men had to march 57 miles to reach where the bulk of Rosecrans force was.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site

September 15, 1863 - Bragg planned for an attack on September 18th. However, chaotic communications within the Confederate camp meant that there were delays in getting this information to the generals in the field.

September 17, 1863 - Rosecrans correctly guessed what Bragg planned to do. He moved his units accordingly. The move took place at night to ensure that they were not seen.

September 18, 1863 - Bragg issued his orders to attack. With the additional men, he had an army that had numerical supremacy over Rosecrans – 75,000 troops against 57,000. 39

September 19, 1863 - Neither side had made any ground against the other. Just before midnight both Rosecrans and Bragg met with their junior generals to discuss the battle.

September 20, 1863 - The battle recommenced at Chickamauga. On this day Ben Hardin Helm was killed fighting for the South. He was brother-in-law to President Lincoln's wife. A major misinterpretation of orders sent by Rosecrans left the Union's middle front line exposed to attack after the men who had been there were moved to the Union's left flank – not what Rosecrans had wanted. The attack duly came when three Southern divisions attacked and inflicted major casualties on the Union forces in front of them. The senior Union commander in the field, Major-General Thomas stopped the rout from becoming a disaster by a valiant and well coordinated rear guard action that earned him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga". The battle cost the Union 1,656 dead, 9,749 wounded and 4774 captured – 28% of Rosecrans' total force. The South lost 2,389 killed, 13,412 wounded and 2,003 missing – 24% of the Army of Tennessee's total.

September 21, 1863 - Union forces headed for Chattanooga. Observer's for Bragg sent him word

that Rosecrans Army of the Cumberland was disorganized and scattered and that a robust chase could destroy what was left. Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest wrote to Bragg "every hour (lost) is worth a thousand men". Bragg did not seem to fully comprehend the magnitude of the South's victory. Some elements of the Confederate Army did attempt a follow up but it was piecemeal and Rosecrans was let off of the hook.

September 22, 1863 - Rosecrans informed President Lincoln about the scale of his defeat. Lincoln had put a great deal on capturing Chattanooga and viewed Rosecrans' failure as a bitter blow.

September 23, 1863 - Rosecrans informed Lincoln that he could hold Chattanooga unless he had to face a much superior force in terms of numbers

September 24, 1863 - Lincoln, believing that Chattanooga had to be held, ordered that 20,000 extra men should be sent there. However, supplying Rosecrans would be problematic, as Bragg had captured Lockout Valley cutting in half the Union's supply line.

September 25, 1863 - Lincoln described Rosecrans as "confused and stunned like a duck hit on the head". 20,000 Union troops started their journey to support Rosecrans.

September 28, 1863 - Rosecrans brought charges against some of his commanders - Generals McCook and Crittenden. Both were ordered to face a court of inquiry. Conditions in Chattanooga were becoming worse as food was in short supply

September 29, 1863 - General US Grant was ordered to direct towards Chattanooga as many men as he could spare. Grant had pre-empted this command and sent a force led by Sherman.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017**

### **JIM CALLEAR - CIVIL WAR RELICS & REENACTING**

The practice of collecting Civil War memorabilia began at least as early as the Battle of First Manassas, and Civil War reenacting began while the actual war was still happening. Known as “sham battles,” these reenactments occurred for a number of reasons, from simple entertainment to helping families back home understand what happened during the war. Both activities are still popular over 150 years after the start of the war.

This month, we welcome Jim Callear who will share with us authentic civil war relics, as well as reproductions. From bullets to bayonets, Jim will present examples of the equipment used by both soldiers both North and South.

Born in Petersburg in 1951, Jim Callear spent part of his childhood in a home built in the

18<sup>th</sup> century, and played in the Crater created during the battle of the same name, fought during the 1864 siege of Petersburg.

When the old house was torn down in the 1960's to make way for a parking lot, a live union cannon shell, likely fired during the siege, was found embedded in the brick foundation. Thus began Jim's fascination with Civil War relics and reenacting, which became a full-time hobby in 1989.

Jim loves talking to people and telling the history of our country, and has presented his hands-on program countless times, to dozens of schools, churches, and scout groups, and will challenge our knowledge of the Civil War with rounds of trivia during the evening. We hope you will join us this month!

### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, November 19, 2017 - Speaker and Topic to be announced.

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### **NEW MENU OPTIONS**

As announced last month, The County Seat Restaurant has changed their meal policy for club meetings. Going forward, The County Seal will offer a main course, or the soup and salad bar.

This month the main course will be Pepper Steak over Rice - slow simmered beef tips, peppers and onions in a hearty beef gravy served over garden rice pilaf.

Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by September 19<sup>th</sup>.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017**

### **PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

See our website's FAQ page for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

### **EVENT OF INTEREST**

#### **American Civil War Museum - History Happy Hour**

Topic: Contexts for Making Sense of Monument Avenue  
With John Coski, Historian, American Civil War Museum

What facts and perspectives do we need to consider in order to understand the Confederate statues on Richmond's Monument Avenue? This program will attempt to make sense of the ongoing public discussions about contextualizing Confederate statues – in Richmond and beyond.

Location: Capital Ale House, 623 E. Main Street Richmond, VA

Program Date: Monday, November 13, 2017 - 6:30pm

Cost: Free; Drinks are on you, History is on us

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site**

October 1, 1863 - Rosecrans' supply route after the Battle of Chickamauga was a tortuous 28-mile mountain road that followed along the side of the Tennessee River. It would have been impossible to supply 50,000 men throughout the winter using just this route. Rosecrans ordered the building of flat-bottomed boats that would be able to navigate the Tennessee River.

October 2, 1863 - The first reinforcements for the Army of the Cumberland arrived in Chattanooga. Their journey of over 1100 miles took just over a week, showing the importance of controlling the railways during the war.

October 4, 1863 - Union engineers completed the first of the flat-bottomed steamboats that they hoped to use to help supply the Army of the Cumberland.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017**

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site**

October 6, 1863 - The weather in Chattanooga took a turn for the worse. Persistent heavy rain made living conditions difficult at best, especially as all the wooden

October 8, 1863 - The lack of food in Chattanooga started to take a hold with many Union soldiers falling ill due to malnourishment. The soldiers in the town had slaughtered most of their animals in an effort to feed themselves but by now even these had run out.

October 9, 1863 - Confederate cavalry attacked a major Union supply column bound for Chattanooga. Hundreds of supply wagons – along with their contents – were lost.

October 10, 1863 - Despite the victory at Chickamauga, senior Confederate officers under Bragg's command expressed to Jefferson Davis their discontent with regard to his leadership. They all agreed that his skills "would be better employed elsewhere". As a friend of Bragg, Davis was angered by their lack of support for him.

October 11, 1863 - General Longstreet, who played such an important role in the victory at Chickamauga, again asked Davis to replace Bragg. Once again, Davis refused.

October 16, 1863 - The North introduced a major reorganization of its armies. The armies

homes in the town had been destroyed for use in strengthening trenches and redoubts. The town's 2,500 citizens crammed themselves into a few stone buildings.

of the Cumberland, Tennessee and Ohio were all combined into the Military Division of the Mississippi and put under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant.

October 18, 1863 - Rosecrans was relieved of his command, which was handed over to Major-General George Thomas. Rosecrans was never given another meaningful command.

October 20, 1863 - Since their victory at Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac had followed Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Neither was in a position to launch a major attack against the other but numerous skirmishes had occurred up to this date when Lee crossed the Rappahannock River to return to his old base. Meade had no intention of following him across the river. The skirmishes that had occurred since Gettysburg had cost Meade 2292 killed and wounded while Lee lost 1381 men.

October 23, 1863 - General Grant arrived at Chattanooga. The plight of the Unionists in the town was aided somewhat by the continuing infighting that Bragg was still experiencing among his senior officers.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017**

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site**

October 24, 1863 - President Lincoln expressed his disappointment that Meade had not crossed the Rappahannock River in pursuit of Lee. However, as a politician, he still failed to fully understand the impact Gettysburg had on both armies even though it was some four months after the battle. In fact, Lincoln assumed that as four months had passed the Army of the Potomac should have been in a position to pursue Lee's army.

October 25, 1863 - The first of the flat-bottomed supply ships was launched in Chattanooga.

October 26, 1863 - The Tennessee River had to be made safe for the Unionists if the supply-boat was to succeed. General Thomas ordered the capture of Brown's Ferry, across the neck of Moccasin Point, which was the old high-water route.

October 27, 1863 - At 05.00, 1,800 Unionist soldiers attacked Brown's Ferry, having been moved along the Tennessee River by pontoons. By 10.00 some 4,000 Unionist soldiers had control of both sides of the river. The supply ship could now sail from Chattanooga passed Moccasin Point in relative safety.

October 28, 1863 - The South attempted to re-capture Brown's Ferry. The night attack lasted until early the next day. However, it was now that the infighting among the senior Confederates officers hit home. Bragg would have been aware that General Longstreet had asked Jefferson Davis to remove Bragg from his post. Bragg and Davis had known each other as good friends for over 20 years so it is inconceivable that Davis had not informed Bragg of what Longstreet had requested. The Confederate attack at Brown's Ferry was to be led by Longstreet. Without telling Longstreet, Bragg removed from the attack some of the units that Longstreet had chosen to use. Instead of having 8,000 men in the attack, Longstreet had 4,000 and they were up against the Union force that now numbered 5,000. The North lost 77 men killed while Longstreet lost over 300 men killed. The Union remained in control of Brown's Ferry. The failure of Longstreet to succeed at Brown's Ferry - information that was swiftly conveyed to Davis - was sufficient to convince Davis that his decision to keep Bragg was the correct one.

October 30, 1863 - The flat-bottomed steam ship returned to Chattanooga at night towing several barges full of 40,000 rations. It arrived just in time as the soldiers in the town only had half a breakfast ration left. The citizens in the town only had four boxes of hard bread left for all of them.



*Established 2003*

## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2017**

### **DR. JIM HODGE – DISPATCHES FROM THE SOUTH: THE LETTERS OF AN OHIO FARM BOY, A PRIVATE IN SHERMAN'S ARMY**

Whether describing the drudgery of camp life or reporting on the terror of battle, letters written by soldiers during the Civil War have been instrumental in understanding this divisive era of America's past.

Our speaker this month is Dr. Jim Hodge, who was born and raised on an Ohio farm, and is a descendant from the Ohio farm boy he discusses in his presentation.

Dr. Hodge earned his PhD in Chemistry at Penn State University, and worked 35 years as a research scientist for DuPont. Jim worked on DuPont products such as Dacron, Kevlar

and Nomex, but his most "visible" accomplishment was the development and production of the bright orange Nomex fabric for the NASA astronaut shuttle crew's space suits.

After retiring from DuPont, our speaker worked five years for the US Dept of Justice as an expert witness and consultant in patent litigation.

We hope you will join us at the County Seat Restaurant in Powhatan, for this month's presentation.

### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, December 21, 2017, Annual Christmas Dinner: Nathan Madison and *"Tredegar Iron Works: Richmond's Foundry on the James"*

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### **NEW MENU OPTIONS**

As announced last month, The County Seat Restaurant has changed their meal policy for club meetings. Going forward, The County Seal will offer a main course, or the soup and salad bar.

This month the main course will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cranberry cherry cobbler.

Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPECIAL RAFFLE**

PCWRT member John Mountcastle has donated a print of Jeb Stuart by Jack Davis (illustrator of Mad Magazine) to be raffled off with proceeds going to the Roundtable. Continuing this month, and going thru December, raffle tickets for this print will be available for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held during the December meeting.



### **EVENT OF INTEREST**

History Happy Hour - Central Virginia:  
*Bread or Blood – The Richmond Bread Riot*

What would you do if you couldn't afford to feed your family? By spring 1863, women in cities across the South who faced this very question needed help. Explore the Richmond Bread Riot and discover how women made their plight known. With Kelly Hancock, of the American Civil War Museum.

Location: Off Site at Macado's, 200 E 3rd St, Farmville, VA 23901

Cost: Free; Drinks are on you, History is on us

Program Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 - 6:30pm

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### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*Such a sorrowful sight; the men had just been taken off the battle-field, some of them had been lying three or four days almost without clothing, their wounds never dressed, so dirty and wretched. Someone gave me my charges as to what I was to do; it seemed such a hopeless task to do anything to help them that I wanted to throw myself down and give it up. Miss Dix left me, and soon the doctors came and ordered me to follow them while they examined and dressed the wounds. They seemed to me then, and afterwards I found they were, the most brutal men I ever saw.*

Mary Phinney

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863** - Courtesy History Learning Site

November 2, 1863 - President Lincoln was invited to make a speech at the dedication of the new cemetery at Gettysburg. Jefferson Davis visited Charleston and publicly stated that he believed the city would not fall.

November 3, 1863 - Sherman continued his march to Chattanooga. Unwilling to rely on a single rail line from Decatur to Nashville for his supplies, he ordered that it was rebuilt as double tracked.

November 4, 1863 - General Bragg, supported by Jefferson Davis, rid himself of General Longstreet and his 20,000 men who were sent to support Confederate troops at Knoxville.

November 7, 1863 - General Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, attacked Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Several Confederate redoubts were captured at Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock River and 1,629 prisoners were taken. However, the North lost far more men killed – 83 to 6.

November 8, 1863 - Meade continued his assault on Confederate positions but by now they are no more than skirmishes as opposed full-scale assaults.

November 9, 1863 - Lincoln visited the theatre to see a play called "The Marble Heart" which starred John Wilkes Booth.

November 14, 1863 - Sherman arrived at Bridgeport at the head of 17,000 men. His men had covered 675 miles in just fourteen days. At Bridgeport, Sherman was briefed by Grant as to the state of play at Chattanooga.

Sherman was told not to expect any help from the Army of the Cumberland, as it would maintain its defensive position rather than an offensive one. In the South, the Confederate Government ordered the use of force in its efforts to collect taxes. This included the confiscation of property and was primarily directed at farmers in North Carolina who were refusing to pay their taxes.

November 15, 1863 - Sherman started his campaign against Chattanooga. Accepting Grant's advice, Sherman viewed the role of the Army of the Cumberland to be solely defensive.

November 16, 1863 - Longstreet finally reached Knoxville. However, lacking heavy artillery, Longstreet was unable to besiege the town, which was well defended by Union troops commanded by General Burnside.

November 18, 1863 - Lincoln left Washington DC en route to Gettysburg. The dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg took place. 15,000 people assembled there. The dedication started with a two-hour speech by Edward Everett as to the course of the battle. Lincoln spoke after Everett and for only ten minutes and received polite applause. Some in the gathering were unaware that he had even spoken. "The Times" in London considered Everett's speech to have been very good while the President's was a disappointment. His speech was carefully prepared and not, as was once thought, put together on the train journey from Washington to Gettysburg. Lincoln himself said "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here."



*Established 2003*

**THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863** - Courtesy History Learning Site

November 20, 1863 - Sherman's advance on Chattanooga was delayed by heavy rain.

November 21, 1863 - With better weather, Sherman prepared for his attack on Chattanooga.

November 23, 1863 - Unionist troops took Orchard Knob just outside of Chattanooga. The capture of this position gave them a height advantage over Confederate positions around Chattanooga. Such was the strategic advantage of Orchard Knob, Grant made it his headquarters.

November 25, 1863 - Sherman started his main assault against Confederate positions around Chattanooga, especially the men based on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. By 15.00 the positions held by the Army of Tennessee had fallen. Seven Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded for the Union assault on Missionary Ridge. One went to Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, the father of Douglas MacArthur.

November 26, 1863 - The Army of the Potomac threatened an attack on Richmond. Bragg withdrew his forces from the Chattanooga area To Dalton, Georgia, having lost 10% of his men – 6,667 out of 64,000. Bragg was not to know that Sherman's army had suffered a similar percentage of casualties – 5,824 out of 56,000 men. By withdrawing, Bragg kept his army as an effective fighting unit. However, Sherman's army was free to advance on Atlanta.

November 27, 1863 - The Army of the Potomac meets that Army of Northern Virginia at Mine Run.

November 30, 1863 - An attack on the Army of Northern Virginia was cancelled at the last minute when Meade decided that Lee's men were too well dug in.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2017

### NATHAN VERNON MADISON ON TREDEGAR IRON WORKS: RICHMOND'S FOUNDRY ON THE JAMES

Merry Christmas from the PCWRT! This month we welcome author and historian, Nathan Vernon Madison.

Nathan is a native of Powhatan County, Blessed Sacrament-Huguenot class of 2002. After earning a B.A. in History at the University of Mary Washington and an M.A. in History at Virginia Commonwealth University, Nathan began work at the American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar in 2011, as an historical consultant for new signs, exhibits and education programs at the museum.

He is a speaker on, and author of several academic books and articles regarding his preferred topics, of popular culture history and economic/industrial history; his first book – *Anti-Foreign imagery in American Pulps and Comic Books, 1920-1960* (MacFarland, 2013) – was a revision upon his master's thesis. His most recent book is the first, complete history of one of Richmond most famed landmarks – *Tredegar Iron Works* –

*Richmond's Foundry on the James* (History Press, 2015).

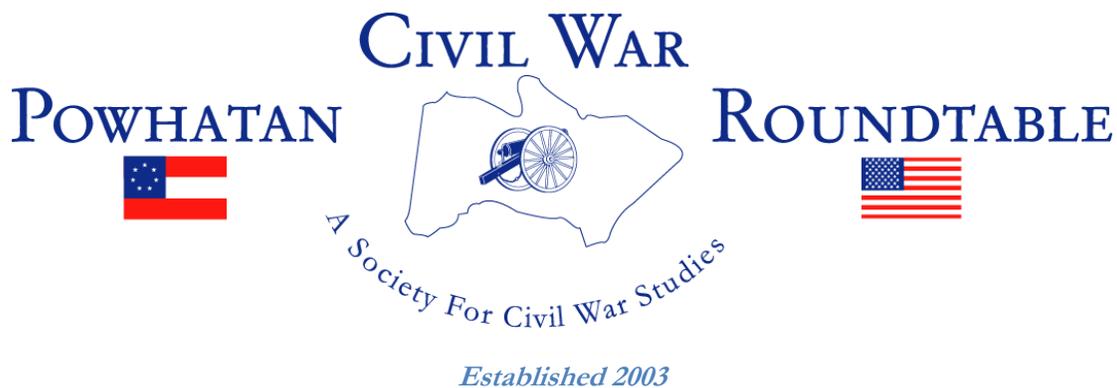
Nathan has participated and/or helped produce documentaries regarding Virginia history and other topics for the BBC, AMC, and C-SPAN; he is co-producer of an upcoming documentary, set to air on PBS early next year, chronicling the parallel histories of Richmond's Tredegar, and its namesake iron town in southeastern Wales.

Nathan is also a founder and co-director of the Richmond Economic History Project, a non-profit organization tasked with researching and digitizing the economic, industrial and infrastructural history of Richmond; currently, Nathan is drafting and editing the program for the next annual conference of the Society for Industrial Archaeology, to be held in Richmond next summer.

We look forward to Nathan's presentation and closing out the year with our members. See you at the County Seat!

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, January 18, 2018, Speaker and topic TBA



### **NEW MENU OPTIONS**

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. This month the main course will be roast beef & gravy, potato casserole, asparagus and apple crisp.

Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPECIAL RAFFLE**

PCWRT member John Mountcastle has donated a print of Jeb Stuart by Jack Davis (illustrator of Mad Magazine) to be raffled off with proceeds going to the Roundtable. Continuing this month, and going thru December, raffle tickets for this print will be available for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held during the December meeting.

### **EVENT OF INTEREST**

The American Civil War Museum's History Happy Hour- Richmond

Topic: Virginia's Secession Crisis, the Struggle to Decide

Location: Capital Ale House, 623 E Main St, Richmond, VA 23219

After Lincoln's election, Virginians had a choice to make: Union or secession? In January 1861 the Virginia General Assembly authorized a state convention to act for Virginia during the impending crisis. Discover how members of the "Virginia Convention of 1861" faced the terrible task of deciding the fate of Virginia, and perhaps the nation. With Mark Greenough, Virginia State Capitol.

Cost: Free, Drinks are on you, History is on us

Program Date: Monday, January 8, 2018 - 6:30pm

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## **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1863 - Courtesy History Learning Site**

December 1, 1863 - Meade decided to withdraw the Army of the Potomac away from Richmond. In the previous few days, his army had suffered badly from the very poor weather. Braxton Bragg offered his resignation to Jefferson Davis after the defeat at Chattanooga. Even now, in the aftermath of a significant defeat, Bragg chose to blame others in his army, namely Major-General John Breckenridge, who he described as a drunk, and Cheatham who Bragg claimed was unfit for duty.

December 2, 1863 - Lieutenant-General W H Hardee was appointed on a temporary basis to succeed Bragg as commander of the Army of the Tennessee.

December 3, 1863 - General Longstreet concluded that he did not have sufficient resources to take Knoxville, so he ordered his army to withdraw to its winter quarters at Greeneville.

December 7, 1863 - The fourth session of the Confederate Congress met in Richmond. Despite brave words from Jefferson Davis, all present knew that it had been a bad year for the Confederacy.

December 8, 1863 - President Lincoln announced the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction to Congress. He offered a full amnesty to those who fought for the Confederacy except to former Federal army officers who had resigned their commission to fight for the South. Anyone who was found guilty of mistreating Union prisoners was also exempt from any Presidential pardon as were senior government officials. Lincoln also promised that all property in the South (except former slaves) would be restored to their legal owners. He also guaranteed that any Southern state would be allowed back into the Union if just 10% of those in a state swore allegiance to the Union. Each of these states would also have to abandon slavery.

December 15, 1863 - The lack of money available to the Confederacy was all too clear to Brigadier-General E P Alexander, part of Longstreet's command, when he noticed men marching in their bare feet as there were no replacements for broken shoes. Longstreet ordered his men to exchange their footwear with the boots worn by captured Union soldiers.

December 16, 1863 - General J E Johnston was appointed commander of the Army of Tennessee. General Bragg went to Richmond and became the military adviser to President Jefferson Davis.

December 18, 1863 - Union troops were suffering the same hardships as those in the South. Union troops at Knoxville had no winter clothing and they slept under their ponchos as no tents had been sent there. Both North and South had more casualties as a result of ill-health and disease as opposed to actual combat. Despite their hardships, General Grant applauded the work done by the men at Knoxville and praised Burnside's leadership.

December 21, 1863 - By this day most military operations had ceased because of the weather.

December 26, 1863 - The strength of the Confederacy was put at 465,000 men but only 278,000 were actually present at their colors. The discrepancy was accounted for by those men off through illness and the many thousands who had deserted. Those that remained at their colors were experienced soldiers. The North was not in a particularly good position either as it was having major problems enforcing conscription.

December 29, 1863 - The first signs of scurvy were reported in both camps along with frequent outbreaks of dysentery.